

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

In the Claims:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A storage system, comprising:

a storage unit;

~~a plurality of inner storage units removeably positioned within the storage unit;~~

a plurality of tracking devices configured to permit (i) ~~monitor~~ monitoring the presence of a plurality of items ~~associated with each of the inner storage units removably stored within the storage unit~~, (ii) ~~monitor~~ monitoring the temperature of the plurality of items and (iii) ~~generate~~ generating tracking data, ~~with a;~~

at least one real-time clock tracking the timing of events associated with the plurality of items, the events including temperature of the plurality of items, ~~location~~ insertion or removal of the plurality of items into or from the storage unit, and access to the plurality of items by a user;

an access control system ~~granting~~ configured to grant access and ~~identifying~~ identify access to the plurality of items by the user through an identification of the user; and

a processing device that reads and records the tracking data from the plurality of tracking devices, the timing of the events, and the identification of the user from the access control system.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The storage system of claim [[1]] 26, further comprising:

a data storage device that is electrically linked to the processing device, wherein the tracking devices are formed in a matrix on each of the inner storage units tracking each of the items in each of the inner storage units, each of the tracking devices communicating with a network to store and receive information with regard to profiling the temperature, tracking the location of the items and access by users to the plurality of items, the identification of the user being made through an identification number associated with the user.

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The storage system of claim 2, wherein the tracking data is stored in the data storage device including historical and current information related to the items, with the tracking device being integrated into the construction of the inner storage unit and each tracking device having a unique identifier.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The storage system of claim [[1]] 26, wherein in the inner storage unit is a rack and the access device is integrated with the rack and grants access and identifies access to the rack.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The storage system of claim [[1]] 26, wherein the inner storage unit is a drawer storage rack.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The storage system of claim [[1]] 26, wherein the inner storage unit is a drawer.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The storage system of claim [[1]] 26, wherein the inner storage unit is a shelf having electrodes, and further wherein the electrodes of the shelf are electrically connected to a network with the processing device so that the status of the items is monitored.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The storage system of claim [[1]] 26, wherein the inner storage unit is a tray, with the items being electronically linked to the tray that is electronically linked to a data storage device storing the tracking data from the items with respect to the tray, the data storage device being controlled by the processing device.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The storage system of claim [[1]] 26, wherein the inner storage unit is a petri dish.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The storage system of claim [[1]] 26, wherein the inner storage unit is a blood bag.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The storage system of claim [[1]] 26, wherein the inner storage unit has a conductive portion that electrically links the tracking device to the processing device.

12. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The storage system of claim 11, wherein the conductive portion is a hook, with the hook being placed on a top and a bottom surface of the inner storage container, the inner storage container being a pouch.

13. (ORIGINAL) The storage system of claim 11, wherein the conductive portion is a phono jack.

14. (ORIGINAL) The storage system of claim 11, wherein the conductive portion is an accordion cable.

15. (ORIGINAL) The storage system of claim 11, wherein the conductive portion is a connector.

16-21. CANCELED.

22. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A storage system, comprising:

a storage unit;

a plurality of tracking devices configured to permit (i) ~~monitor~~ monitoring the presence of a plurality of items removably stored within the storage unit and (ii) ~~generate~~ generating tracking data, ~~with a~~

at least one real-time clock tracking the timing of events associated with the items, the events including ~~location~~ insertion or removal of the plurality of items into or from the storage unit, and access to the plurality of items by a user;

an access control system ~~granting~~ configured to grant access and ~~identifying~~ identify access to the plurality of items by the user through an identification of the user; and

a processing device that reads and records the tracking data from the plurality of tracking devices, the timing of events, and the identification of the user from the access control system.

23. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The storage system of claim 22, wherein the plurality of tracking devices are further configured to permit (iii) ~~monitor~~ monitoring the temperature of the items.

24. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The storage system of claim 23, wherein the events further include the temperature of the items.

25. (NEW) A storage system, comprising:

a storage unit;

a plurality of tracking devices configured to permit (i) monitoring the presence of a plurality of items removably stored within the storage unit and

(ii) generating tracking data;

at least one real-time clock tracking the timing of events associated with the plurality of items, the events including insertion or removal of the plurality of items into or from the storage unit and access to the plurality of items by a user;

an access control system granting access to the plurality of items by the user; and

a processing device that reads and records the tracking data from the plurality of tracking devices and the timing of events.

26. (NEW) The storage system of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of inner storage units positioned within the storage unit.